

French comedy opens 95-96 theater season

Moliere's "The Misanthrope" opens University Theatre's 1995-96 theater season. Directed by Michael Luger, the classic 17th century French comedy is being staged in the Judy Bayley Theatre.

Written in 1666, it is Moliere's most performed comedy. Alceste, the hero of the play, is disgusted with society, corruption, and his two-faced friends. He creates a code of absolute frankness and decides to be completely open and sometimes viciously frank with everyone he knows. He takes it to be his mission in life that all humankind should be truthful, sparing no one's feelings. Alceste's zeal against hypocrisy is delightfully ironic since he has fallen desperately in love with Celine, who epitomizes everything he despises.

Nearly 100 years after the play was first performed, Jean Jacques Rousseau wrote that Alceste is a man "who detests the morals of his age...who, precisely because he loves mankind, despises in them the wrong they inflict upon one another."

At the other extreme is Celimene, whom Alceste loves. She smiles to one's face and showers one with praises, but the moment one leaves, she becomes the center of attention as she ridicules those absent.

A love triangle is formed as Alceste falls in love with Celimene, the one which could never be faithful to him, yet shuns Eliante, the very one

that would be best suited for him.

"The Misanthrope" is a very French drama. The society it portrays is elegant, formal, and mannered. The surface elegance of the verse reflects the manners of society that is polished, artificial, and ritualistic. Richard Wilbur's translation is considered the best ever done into English. Moliere pits the extreme an opposite values of Celimene and Alceste against each other without offering simple solutions to their conflict. The play raises questions of when discretion is simply hypocrisy, or when being practical is simply greed and corruption—questions as relevant today as in Moliere's time. The audience is amused at both Alceste's brutal truths and at Celimene's white lies.

Joel; Babbit plays Alceste and Curtis C. is his friend Philinte. Michell Caudel is Celimene, the woman who loves him. Others in the cast include Jason Johnson, Kathryn Ambler, Michael Serna, Glenn Peters, Greg Gaskill, Alistair Logan, and Brian Anderson.

The set is designed by Kris Van Riper and costumes are by Gail Lehtinen with lights by Brackley Frayer.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Sept. 28-30 and Oct. 4-7, with matinees at 2 p.m. Oct. 1 and 8. General admission is \$8, and full time students get in free. For more information, call 895-3801.

Announcements

Date	Event	Time	Location
Thursday, Aug. 31	College Survival Skills Workshop	11 a.m.	Alumni Amphitheater
Friday, Sept. 1	Boogie Nights School Year Opening Party	8 p.m.	Moyer Student Union Courtyard
Saturday, Sept. 2	UNLV Beach House Pool Party	11 a.m.-3 p.m.	McPherson Physical Education Complex PE
Monday, Sept. 4	Holiday: Labor Day Recess		
Tuesday, Sept. 5	Campus Roundup Organization Day	10 a.m.	Women's Softball Field

Film Review

KIDS-Having Trouble Relating to Them?

BY DANNY KIM

Fledgling screenwriter Harmony Korine, a 21-year-old New Yorker, has given possible Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole something to talk about with *Kids*.

With extraordinarily graphic language, one thing that director Larry Clark has succeeded in doing is making controversial films such as *Clerks* and *Priests* look tame.

Another remarkable part of *Kids* is that untrained actors were cast throughout the film. Also bear in mind that the oldest of these actors is 17. The realism of *Kids* brings to mind the surprisingly narrative structure of the documentary, *Hoop Dreams*. The acting is unforced and casual, perhaps the result of Larry Clark's direction.

Aside from a few camera gaffes, Clark succeeds in creating the gritty world of Korine's New York in his directorial debut. Along with the provocative visual and vocal elements, the soundtrack provides a lyrically accomplished set of tracks to treasure. Featured on the soundtrack are Folk Implosion, Daniel Johnston, Sebadoh, Lo-Down, and Slint. The music ranges from spicy punk folk to slow, droning hip

hop. One of the songs sounds like the nice little guitar playing in the background from "A Perfect World." In *Kids*, the same song plays when Casper and his accomplices brutalize someone. In any case, the soundtrack is a nice addition to the *Kids* experience.

The film begins with curious sounds filling the audio channels, as the camera pulls up to the scene of flailing tongues between two minors. Right from the opening scene, *Kids* provokes the good moral fiber in us all. Telly, the 16-year-old narrator, proclaims that he enjoys taking the virginity from 14 year-olds for reasons which I will leave on the doorstep (along with many other parts of this film.)

Telly and his entourage of friends, including Casper (Justin Pierce), an eccentric version of Telly, trod the streets of New York, stealing alcohol, pummeling people until they "twitch," inhaling nitrous from balloons, smoking pot, and seducing girls into having sex with them. Just your average 14-year-old kids having fun in the only way they know how.

A bit of a storyline develops as Jenny, played by Chloe Sevigny, finds out that she has AIDS. It turns out that she has had sex only once, and it was with our dear friend, Telly. Jenny spends the rest of the film looking for Telly, only

to end up getting intoxicated at a party. Before the night is over, Telly has manipulated another virgin into having sex with him. Of course, this virgin does not know that she now has the AIDS virus. The next morning, Casper, "the dopest ghost I know," rummages through the kitchen, draining the remaining beer from bottles, even with his hangover. In tune with the rest of this film, Casper takes advantage of a precarious situation, as he more or less, rapes an intoxicated Jenny.

So ultimately, we are left with only the hopelessness of trying to find any moral victories, when there are none to be found.

Kids (1995, Drama)

Starring

Leo Fitzpatrick

Chloe Sevigny

Justin Pierce

Cinematography: 7

Acting: 9

Character Development: 5

Soundtrack: 7

Overall Rating: 88%

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